

to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 212

Whereas Chinese dissident Wang Dan, a leader of the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations that were crushed at Tiananmen Square in 1989 was released on April 18, 1998, from a Chinese jail;

Whereas Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan were released from prison ostensibly for medical reasons, it is clear that their release into exile was intended as a political gesture to diminish public U.S. criticism of China's human rights practices;

Whereas China's "most famous dissident" Wei Jingsheng was released on November 16, 1997, from a Chinese jail;

Whereas, in addition to Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan, thousands of other political, religious, and labor dissidents are imprisoned in China and Tibet for peacefully expressing their beliefs and exercising their internationally recognized rights of free association and expression, including—

(1) Gao Yu, a journalist sentenced to 6 years in prison in November 1994 and honored by UNESCO in May 1997, who has a heart condition;

(2) Chen Longde, a leading human rights advocate now serving a 3-year reeducation through labor sentence imposed without trial in August 1996, who has reportedly been subject to repeated beatings and electric shocks at a labor camp for refusing to confess his guilt;

(3) Li Hai, sentenced to nine years in prison on December 18, 1996, for collecting information on those imprisoned after the 1989 crackdown; he was convicted of "prying into and gathering . . . information about persons sentenced for criminal activity during the June 4, 1989, period;"

(4) Yang Qinheng, apprehended February 26, 1998, and assigned to 3 years' "reeducation through labor" in March for "disturbing social order", who had called for independent trade unions;

(5) Shen Liangqing, former public prosecutor and petitioner, who was apprehended on February 25, 1998, and assigned to 2 years' labor on April 4, 1998, for "unauthorized contact with foreign journalists";

(6) Tu Guangwen, an organizer of a street protest, who was sentenced by the Jiangxia district court on February 19, 1998, to 3 years' imprisonment after being convicted of "gathering a crowd to disrupt orderly traffic" during a demonstration by laid-off workers; and

(7) Ngawang Choephel, a Tibet Fullbright scholar sentenced to 18 years in prison by Chinese Authorities in December 1996 on charges of "espionage;"

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China, as detailed in successive annual reports on human rights by the United States Department of State, routinely, systematically, and massively violates the human rights of its citizens, including freedom of speech, assembly, worship, and peaceful political dissent;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China restricts the ability of religious adherents, including Christians, Buddhists, Muslims, and others, to practice outside of state-approved religious organizations, and detains worshipers and clergy who participate in religious services conducted outside state-approved religious organizations, as well as those who refuse to register with the authorities, as required;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China routinely, systematically, and massively continues to commit widespread human rights abuses in Tibet, including instances of death in detention, torture, arbitrary arrest, detention without public

trial, long detention of Tibetan nationalists for peacefully expressing their religious and political views, and intensified controls on religion and on freedom of speech and the press, particularly for ethnic Tibetans; and

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China engages in reprehensible, brutal, and coercive family planning practices, including forced abortions and forced sterilization, resulting in widespread infanticide, particularly of female infants: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) in the upcoming, proposed summit between President Clinton and President Jiang Zemin of China, President Clinton should demand the immediate and unconditional release, consistent with established international principles of human rights, of all persons remaining imprisoned in China and Tibet for political or religious reasons; and

(2) the President should submit a report to Congress as soon as possible after the proposed summit in China concerning his progress in securing the release of persons remaining imprisoned in China and Tibet, as described in paragraph (1); and

(3) the release of one prisoner into exile does not change the fundamental flaws within the Chinese judicial and penal system;

(4) the U.S. policy of granting concessions to the Chinese government in exchange for the release of high profile prisoners is an offense to the thousands of dissidents remaining in prison; and

(5) the President should not offer to lift the sanctions imposed on China after the 1989 crackdown in Tiananmen Square.

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, yesterday's papers were replete with stories praising the People's Republic of China for releasing Wang Dan, a leader of the 1989 pro-democracy demonstration at Tiananmen Square which was crushed by China's military. This release follows, by less than six months, the release of Wei Jingsheng—arguably China's best known human rights dissident. While these are certainly positive developments, it is important to note that both of these releases are tainted by the fact that neither dissident was allowed to stay in their own country, but were instead exiled to the United States for "medical treatment." These exiles conveniently allow China to gain favor with the United States while simultaneously allowing them to silence two of their loudest critics by banishing them to the United States.

Mr. President, the truth is that China appears to be using its dissidents as pawns in an international game of chess with the United States to gain military, technological and other favors from the Clinton Administration. In fact, the release of these two prisoners appears to be payment for the United States decision not to support a resolution condemning China's human rights record at the recently completed U.N. Conference on Human Rights and for the United States certification of China to join a pact on ballistic missile technology. It is amazing that this great country, which has long stood beside political prisoners around the world, is willing to be a player in China game of siphoning out political prisoners in return for international favors.

Let us not forget that the People's Republic of China continues to have one of the worst human rights records in the world. A record that includes torture, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrest and detention, forced abortion and sterilization, crackdowns on independent Catholic and Protestant bishops and believers, brutal oppression of ethnic minorities and religions in Tibet and Xinjiang, absolute intolerance of free political speech or free press, and most recently, the harvesting and selling of human organs.

Likewise, let us not forget that China continues to threaten its neighbors, most notably Taiwan and let us not forget that China continues to violate international agreements on non-proliferation, having recently been caught negotiating to sell chemicals to Iran which could be used to produce weapons-grade uranium.

Mr. President, we must end this deadly and humiliating game with China, and demand the immediate release of the hundreds, if not thousands, of political, religious, and labor dissidents currently imprisoned in China for having peacefully expressed their beliefs and for having exercised their basic human rights. This list includes the likes of Gao Yu, a journalist sentenced to six years in 1994; Chen Longde, a leading human rights advocate serving a three year "re-education" sentence which began in 1995; Li Qingxi, a unionist arrested in 1998, and many, many others. While I hope that the recent release of two of China's most notable dissidents was just the beginning, and that the remaining political prisoners held in the People's Republic of China will soon be released, I see little evidence that this is the case.

Therefore, I urge my fellow Senators to support my Sense of the Senate Resolution calling on the President to demand that China release all such prisoners prior to their upcoming U.S.-China summit meeting, and that the President report to this body on the progress being made by the administration in securing the release of these prisoners immediately following this planned summit.

Mr. President, this is a reasonable resolution—a resolution that once again puts this body on record supporting those that would give up their freedom in support of the freedom of their fellow countrymen. I can think of no more important issue. I thank my Senate colleagues for their support.

SENATE RESOLUTION 213—CONGRATULATING THE UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE

Mr. LOTT (for Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. SMITH of New Ham, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. ROBB, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. CLELAND, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. HAGEL, Mr.

COATS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. LOTT, Mr. GLENN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. KOHL, and Mr. STEVENS) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 213

Whereas the United States Army Reserve was created by statute on April 23, 1908;

Whereas the United States Army Reserve was the first of the Federal reserve forces created by Congress;

Whereas the United States Army Reserve has played a major role in the defense of this country for 90 years;

Whereas many notable Americans have served with distinction in the United States Army Reserve, including Presidents Harry S. Truman and Ronald W. Reagan, the current Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Henry H. Shelton, Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., Major General William J. Donovan (Director of the Office of Strategic Services during World War II), Drs. Charles H. Mayo and William J. Mayo, and Captain Eddie Rickenbacker;

Whereas the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Strom Thurmond, who received the Purple Heart for injuries received while participating in the Normandy invasion with the 82d Airborne Division on D-Day, served with distinction in the United States Army Reserve for 36 years, rising to the rank of Major General;

Whereas the United States Army Reserve contributed more than 160,000 soldiers to the United States Army during World War I;

Whereas the United States Army Reserve was recognized by General George C. Marshall for its unique and invaluable contributions to the national defense during World War II;

Whereas more than 240,000 soldiers from the United States Army Reserve were called to active duty during the Korean War;

Whereas 35 units of the United States Army Reserve were sent to Vietnam, where they served honorably and well;

Whereas the United States Army Reserve contributed more than 90,000 soldiers to Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1990 and 1991;

Whereas the United States Army Reserve has contributed more than 70 percent of the reserve soldiers mobilized in support of Operation Joint Endeavor/Joint Guard in Bosnia;

Whereas the United States Army Reserve constitutes a very high percentage of the mission essential combat support and combat service support forces of the Army;

Whereas the Army cannot go to war without the 1,100,000 trained Ready Reserve and Retired Reserve personnel of the United States Army Reserve;

Whereas the United States Army Reserve is a community-based force with over 1,200 facilities in communities across the United States; and

Whereas the United States Army Reserve has made these contributions to the security of our country in return for a very small percentage of the Army budget: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the United States Army Reserve on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of its establishment on April 23, 1908;

(2) recognizes and commends the United States Army Reserve for the selfless and dedicated service of its past and present citizen-soldiers who have preserved the freedom and national security of the United States; and

(3) recognizes Strom Thurmond, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, for 36 years of service with distinction in the United States Army Reserve.

SENATE RESOLUTION 214—COM- MENDING THE GRAND FORKS HERALD

Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. HAGEL, and Mr. MOYNIHAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 214

Whereas the residents of the Grand Forks area in North Dakota and Minnesota experienced the most devastating floods in 500 years during April 1997;

Whereas more than 50,000 residents of the Red River Valley area were severely displaced for months by the flooding;

Whereas the offices of the Grand Forks Herald, whose newspaper has a daily circulation of 37,000, were displaced by the floods and moved to various locations to publish the newspaper, including the University of North Dakota and Manvel Elementary School, and the paper was printed by the St. Paul Pioneer Press of St. Paul, Minnesota, to enable the paper to maintain continuous publication;

Whereas the Grand Forks Herald publisher Mike Maidenberger, editor Mike Jacobs, and more than 70 staff members, whose lives were turned upside down by the floods, never failed to publish an edition of the newspaper during the floods, sometimes hitting a circulation of 117,000 and keeping the community together even though the paper's facilities were totally destroyed;

Whereas the Grand Forks Herald was honored with journalism's most prestigious award, the Pulitzer Prize for public service, for its extraordinary efforts to continue publishing during the severe flooding; and

Whereas the dedication and devotion of the Grand Forks Herald to the community made an extraordinary difference in the lives of many people during the flooding by helping to maintain a sense of stability during this terrible natural disaster: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the Grand Forks Herald and its staff for their dedication to community and excellence in public service; and

(2) congratulates the newspaper on being selected to receive one of our Nation's most coveted awards for public service, the Pulitzer Prize.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE EDUCATION SAVINGS ACT FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

GORTON (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 2293

Mr. GORTON (for himself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. MACK, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. HELMS, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. NICKLES, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. MCCONNELL) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 2646) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free expenditures from education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses, to increase the maximum annual amount of contributions to such accounts, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

TITLE —EDUCATION FUNDING

SEC. ____01. DIRECT AWARDS OF CERTAIN EDUCATION FUNDING.

(a) STATE OPTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law and subject to subsection (b)(2), each State shall notify the Secretary regarding the State's election to receive the State's portion of the applicable funding described in subsection (e) according to one of the following options:

(A) STATE BLOCK GRANT OPTION.—The State may receive the funding pursuant to a State allotment described in subsection (c)(1)(A).

(B) LOCAL BLOCK GRANT OPTION.—The State may direct the Secretary to send the funding directly to local educational agencies in the State pursuant to a local allotment described in subsection (c)(1)(B).

(C) FEDERAL STATUTE OPTION.—The State may receive the funding according to the provisions of law described in subsection (e).

(2) OPTION REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A State shall select an option described in paragraph (1)—

(i) within 1 year of the date of enactment of this Act;

(ii) pursuant to a majority vote of the State legislature; and

(iii) with the concurrence of the Governor.

(B) FAILURE TO SELECT AN OPTION.—If a State fails to select an option in accordance with this subsection, the Secretary shall award the applicable funding pursuant to paragraph (1)(B).

(C) CHANGES.—A State may alter the selection made under paragraph (1) only once and only after receiving the applicable funding for 3 years pursuant to 1 of the options described in such paragraph.

(3) MINIMUM.—No State shall receive an amount under this section for a fiscal year that is less than 0.5 percent of the applicable funding available for the fiscal year.

(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(A) the term "State" means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

(B) the term "outlying area" means Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

(b) RESERVATION AND APPLICABILITY.—

(1) RESERVATION.—From the total amount of applicable funding available for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve 1 percent to make awards to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the outlying areas according to their respective needs for assistance under this section.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The provisions of this section shall not apply—

(A) for fiscal year 1999, if the total amount appropriated to carry out the provisions of law described in subsection (e) for the fiscal year is less than \$2,564,000,000;

(B) for fiscal year 2000, if the total amount so appropriated for the fiscal year is less than \$2,625,000,000;

(C) for fiscal year 2001, if the total amount so appropriated for the fiscal year is less than \$2,687,000,000;

(D) for fiscal year 2002, if the total amount so appropriated for the fiscal year is less than \$2,750,000,000; and

(E) for fiscal year 2003, if the total amount so appropriated for the fiscal year is less than \$2,817,000,000.

(c) BLOCK GRANTS.—

(1) ALLOTMENTS.—

(A) STATES.—From the total applicable funding available for a fiscal year, and not reserved under subsection (b)(1) for the fiscal year, the Secretary may make allotments to